Listing of the Claims

1-36. (cancelled)

37. (previously presented) Telecommunications services apparatus for use with a mobile telephone network utilising a first message delivery function, the apparatus comprising routing means for identifying a characteristic in a message signal received in the telephone network, and message processing means for translating a short form destination address in the message signal into a full destination address for a second message delivery function, the address translation being effected using a predefined syntax, and the routing means being operable to send the message signal to the message processing means in response to identification of the characteristic in the message signal, wherein the characteristic in the message signal to be identified by the routing means is when the destination address is in alphanumeric form, and wherein the alphanumeric destination address is carried within an SMS destination address field.

38. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 37, including message delivery means for forwarding the message signal to the translated full destination address according to the second message delivery function, the message delivery means being additionally operable to receive a reply message signal from the original destination address and to forward the reply message signal to the message processing means for enabling translation of the reply destination address into accord with the first message delivery function such that the reply message signal may be sent to the originator of the original message signal.

39. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the first message delivery function is a mobile network text message function.

40. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 39, wherein the mobile network text message function is in accordance with the short message service (SMS).

41. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the second message delivery function is an email function.

42. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 41, wherein the translation according to the predefined syntax involves adding a specific service provider email domain to the short form destination address.

43. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 42, wherein the translation according to the predefined syntax is invoked when the short form destination address includes one or more predetermined characters.

44. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the translation according to the predefined syntax is invoked when the short form destination address ends with the one or more predetermined characters.

45. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 44, wherein the predetermined character is "@".

46. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 44, wherein the predetermined characters are "@" followed by one or more other characters identifying corresponding specific service providers to enable translation to the respective service provider email domain.

47. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the second message delivery function is a VPN function.

48. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 47, wherein the second message delivery function is in accordance with the short message service (SMS).

49. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 47, wherein the translation according to the predefined syntax is invoked when the short form destination address includes one or more predetermined characters.

50. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 49, wherein the translation according to the predefined syntax is invoked when the short form destination address ends with the one or more predetermined characters.

51. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 50, wherein the predetermined characters are "!" followed by one or more characters identifying corresponding VPNs.

52. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the routing means comprises an SMS router.

53. (previously presented) A telecommunications services method for a mobile telephone network utilising a first message delivery function, the method comprising identifying a characteristic in a message signal received in the telephone network, and translating a short form destination address in the message signal into a full destination address for a second message delivery function, the address translation being effected using a predetermined syntax, and the message signal being routed for message processing in response to identification of the characteristic in the message signal, wherein the characteristic in the message signal to be identified is when the destination address is in alphanumeric form, and wherein the alphanumeric destination address is carried within an SMS destination address field.

54. (previously presented) A method according to claim 53, including forwarding the message signal to the translated full destination address according to the second message delivery function, receiving a reply message signal from the original destination address, and forwarding the reply message signal for message processing to enable translation of the reply destination address into accord with the

first message delivery function such that the reply message signal may be sent to the originator of the original message signal.

55. (previously presented) A method according to claim 53, wherein the first message delivery function is a mobile network text message function.

56. (previously presented) A method according to claim 55, wherein the mobile network text message function is in accordance with the short message service (SMS).

57. (previously presented) A method according to claim 53, wherein the second message delivery function is an email function.

58. (previously presented) A method according to claim 57, wherein the translation according to the predefined syntax involves adding a specific service provider email domain to the short form destination address.

59. (previously presented) A method according to claim 58, wherein the translation according to the predefined syntax is invoked when the short form destination address includes one or more predetermined characters.

60. (previously presented) A method according to claim 59, wherein the translation according to the predefined syntax is invoked when the short form destination address ends with the one or more predetermined characters.

61. (previously presented) A method according to claim 60, wherein the predetermined character is "@".

62. (previously presented) A method according to claim 60, wherein the predetermined characters are "@" followed by one or more other characters identifying corresponding specific service providers to enable translation to the respective service provider email domain.

63. (previously presented) A method according to claim 53, wherein the second message delivery function is a VPN function.

64. (previously presented) A method according to claim 63, wherein the second message delivery function is in accordance with the short message service (SMS).

65. (previously presented) A method according to claim 63, wherein the translation according to the predefined syntax is invoked when the short form destination address includes one or more predetermined characters.

66. (previously presented) A method according to claim 65, wherein the translation according to the predefined syntax is invoked when the short form destination address ends with the one or more predetermined characters.

67. (previously presented) A method according to claim 66, wherein the predetermined characters are "!" followed by one or more characters identifying corresponding VPNs.

68. (previously presented) A method according to claim 53, wherein the message signal routing is performed by an SMS router.

69. (previously presented) A computer program for implementing a method according to claim 53.

70. (previously presented) A storage medium storing a computer program according to claim 69.